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February 25, 2013

Testimony of Representative Angel Arce
Transportation Committee

House Bill #6056, An Act Concerning The Use Of Municipal Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices At Certain Intersections

Good morning Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the committee this morning. I am Representative Angel Arce and I represent the 4th Assembly District in Hartford. I am here today to testify in favor of House Bill #6056, An Act Concerning The Use Of Municipal Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices At Certain Intersections.

This legislation will allow municipalities that choose to implement traffic control cameras to pass local ordinances allowing for their use.

There have been many arguments for and against red light cameras such as the cost of the cameras, the collection of fines, the monetary incentive and problems with the camera system with respect to whether a red light was ignored or not. I believe municipalities that choose to adopt the cameras have the ability to work to address these issues.

However, there is one aspect of these cameras that would have benefited my family and me personally and, I am sure, others as well. It is that perspective that I would like to add on this issue and why I am strongly supporting this legislation.

From 2008 to 2010, there have been 42 hit and run accidents throughout the state and many of the drivers involved ignored traffic signals while they sped off from the scene of the accidents. Sadly, on many occasions, pedestrians, including elderly and children have been the victims. Red

light cameras would have been able to catch those drivers and bring them to justice in a more efficient manner than relying on possible eyewitnesses at the scenes.

As an example, I lost my father in 2008 after he was hit by a driver in Hartford that continued to speed down the road, ignoring all traffic lights along the way. It was by chance that, many months later, someone came forward that knew the driver and reported him to the authorities.

I believe a camera or cameras at the intersections this driver ignored would have been very helpful to law enforcement to apprehend the perpetrator sooner.

I also believe that as situations like this arise, and drivers are caught in a more efficient manner, it will have an effect not only on habitual lawbreakers, but will make a driver think twice if he or she is thinking about speeding off from the scene of an accident.

Please give this legislation the support it needs to move it forward.

I thank you once again for your consideration and urge the committees support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angel Arce", written in a cursive style.

Angel Arce
State Representative
4th District